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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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COMMUNITY

Towns seek help from MassDEP to confront racetrack noise

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — While the Palmer Motorsports Park racetrack is winding down for the season, area municipalities are ratcheting up efforts to address noise complaints from some residents.

Meanwhile, the track's owner says he understands he can't make everyone happy, but remains committed to being a good neighbor and involved member of the community.

Since PMP opened in 2015, residents and officials from Palmer, Ware, and Warren have been discussing what they consider quality of life issues related to the sounds of cars racing around the 2.3-mile track. Last week, the Ware Board of Selectmen talked about the guidance the town received from State Sen. Anne Gobi's office about appealing to the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection for assistance.

"Sen Gobi's office asked the communities that surround the track to work together and get a joint letter [to MassDEP]," Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley told the Journal Register.

"We're asking for a review of the environmental impacts of noise on the town," Beckley said. "We did ask for help a few years ago and didn't get much help,



Courtesy photo

An aerial view of the Palmer Motorsports Park racetrack that winds for 2.3 miles.

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By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

POLICE/FIRE



Courtesy photo

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department's Apprehension Team arrested 13 people who had been released from custody to lower jail populations around the Commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sheriff's Dept. unit re-arrests suspects

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

REGION — Earlier this month, a Brimfield man who was charged with multiple counts after allegedly wielding a sword at passersby and police was arrested again, just a few weeks after being released from custody.

The man accused of wielding the sword, Michael Jablonski of Brimfield, was not among the more than one dozen people recently arrested by the Hampden County Sheriff's Department's Apprehension Team, but it's another example of what Sheriff Nick Cocchi considers to be a dangerous pattern by the state. Cocchi said last Friday

that the public is less safe because people released from custody while awaiting adjudication after being accused of violent crimes are back in local communities.

Thousands of suspects in violent crimes were released conditionally to lower jail populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cocchi's unit arrested 13 of them in recent weeks and plans to bring in more based on alleged violations of their release conditions and/or accusations of committing other crimes since leaving custody.

In Jablonski's case, he was arrested by Brimfield police because of "failure to comply with the terms

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COMMUNITY



Light Up Palmer committee members (from left) Janice Lachut, Chris Smith, Patty Rice, and Audrey Barone preparing to decorate Depot Square. Courtesy Photo

They're lighting up the night in downtown Palmer

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — COVID-19 notwithstanding, the holiday season is still present in town.

That's thanks to the Light Up Palmer committee which has taken the time to decorate downtown Palmer and help keep the Christmas spirit alive.

Christine Smith, chairman of the committee, said historically, Light up Palmer was an event the community used to look forward to before it went on hiatus for two decades. Last year, the committee brought it back.

Smith said she and other Palmer residents worked together to bring Light Up Palmer back for the residents because they want "to provide a tradition that had been done in Palmer for many years." She also said it is important to thank the Palmer Rede-

velopment Authority, which played a big part in reviving the tradition.

"They [provided] upfront money to help us get decorations and took us under their wing and accepted us as an organization to bring back traditional lighting to Main Street and bring some joy to the people in town."

Last year, after many months of planning, the committee successfully hosted a holiday gathering in December that brought residents together to enjoy a lit-up Depot Square, view ice carver Mark Rondeau's creations, and even a chance to meet the train conductor from the holiday classic "The Polar Express" and more.

"We are unable to have that because of statewide restrictions," said Smith.

"We hope to bring it back next year, when all of this is resolved and bring it back in a better way than we

did last year. This year, we feel that there is a need to decorate downtown to try to brighten the spirits of everybody during the pandemic."

This year, the committee is continuing to fundraise and is also hosting a neighborhood decorating contest which will take place Dec. 14-15.

Smith said anyone would like to assist in fundraising efforts can donate through the PRA and/or purchase commemorative ornaments.

"They just have to either email us or enter online, and we'll send them a contestant sign that will go in front of their yard," said Smith.

Anyone interested in assisting with the committees fundraising efforts, sign up for the decorating contest and more, send an email by Dec. 11 to lightupplamer@yahoo.com or visit their Facebook page to stay up to date.

POLICE/FIRE

Monson Fire Dept: Be thankful and aware while preparing your feast

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — Thanksgiving being just around the corner means many hours – even days – of meal preparation. While it's a joyful ritual for many, it could also lead to an unfortunate kitchen fire.

The Monson Fire Department and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey working together to prevent that. Monson Fire Chief Brian S.

Harris and Ostroskey are urging residents to remain cautious while cooking. It's part of a statewide cooking fire safety awareness campaign.

According to a news release from the MFD, this campaign has two messages residents should take into consideration: "Stand by Your Pan," to prevent cooking fires and "Put a Lid on It," to successfully put grease fires out quickly and safely.

"Safety is the key ingredient in any recipe," Ostroskey said in a statement.

"The leading cause of fire injuries to everyone and especially to

seniors is cooking, which is why it is important to put a lid on a stove-top fire."

Fires thrive on oxygen. Cutting off the source of oxygen with a lid will quickly cause the flames to die down.

Lt. Lisa Hamill, a Monson Fire and Emergency Services paramedic, said the Department of Fire Services is hoping to make the public aware that safety is a particular concern at Thanksgiving.

"It's a number one day for cooking and kitchen fires in the country," said Hamill.

MONSON | page 5



Turley Publications File Photo

The Monson Fire Department, located at 200 Main Street, urges residents to be aware of kitchen and household safety to avoid tragic accidents this Thanksgiving.

Early Holiday deadline

Note to readers: Due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, the next edition of the Journal Register will go to press earlier than usual. All submissions from the public for news, opinion, community and calendar pages must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20. Email submissions as Word or .txt files or email text and photos as .jpegs (no other formats, please) to mharrison@turley.com.



Susan Scott (left) is congratulated by Palmer Healthcare Administrator David Cavalier while being recognized for her 40+ years of service.

Honored for healthcare service

Susan Scott was recently recognized for her work at Palmer Healthcare in a career spanning over 40 years. She received a plaque commemorating her service from two Mass Reps. — House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Todd Smola.

"We are all very proud of her. Susan's dedication, patience, love and compassion to our residents are

beyond admirable," one of her colleagues said. "Susan's dedication to nursing and her residents have been recognized by many local families over the years."

Gifts, cards for senior citizens needed

Want to help spread some holiday cheer to local senior citizens this year? Home Sweet Home Senior Living has a plan and they could use your help.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this holiday season is difficult for everyone to navigate, but especially for older adults who are unable to see their families as they normally would. Katie Krupka, se-

nior living advisor at Home Sweet Home, is collecting small gifts and cards through Dec. 13 to distribute to local seniors who could use a little extra holiday joy this year.

Some gift suggestions: grocery store or other gift cards, books, puzzles, scarfs, gloves, a blanket, socks, slippers, snacks, anything handmade, soaps, hand towels, jewelry, arts and crafts, picture frames

— anything you think will be appreciated.

If you are donating a warped gift, there should be an indication if it is intended to be gender-specific.

Krupka can arrange a socially distanced drop-off or pick-up arrangements for all donated gifts.

For more information, email her at katie@homesweetomesla.com or call 413-446-8722.

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Roving archivist lends expertise to Brimfield Library



Courtesy photo
Michael Defalco, lead member of the Sherman Room Digitization Team and Sarah-Jane Pointdexter, Roving Archivist.

BRIMFIELD — The Brimfield Public Library is pleased to announce that it is a 2020 recipient of a Roving Archivist Program Grant.

Sponsored by the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Roving Archivist Program provides Massachusetts institutions, both public and private, that contain historical records, with access to a professional archivist who lends advice on policies, procedures, arrangement, and description of records, preservation planning and emergency preparedness.

As part of the grant, state Roving Archivist Sarah-Jane Pointdexter visited the Brimfield Public Library's Sherman Room in along

with Library Director Rebecca Wells and Michael Defalco to conduct an evaluation of the collection. With guidance from Defalco, Pointdexter was able to immerse herself in all that the Sherman room has to offer during her visit.

She took great time and care to learn about the history of Brimfield and offered suggestions on how the current preservation operations can be improved.

Pointdexter will aid the library in creating better methods for accessing resources while also making suggestions in creating or updating policies to aid in preserving its special collections.

"I am excited that Sarah-Jane was able to share her knowledge and expertise with us regarding best practices for preserving our most treasured historical artifacts.

Brimfield is a community most proud of its history and the guidance provided by her will ensure that we are able to preserve our collection properly and for years to come," Wells said.

About the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board: The Massachusetts SHRAB provides leadership, advocacy and guidance to help ensure the identification, preservation, and use of the state's historical resources (public and private). The Massachusetts SHRAB encourages and supports communication and coordination among the historical records communities and the public. It is the state-level review body for grants submitted to the NHPRC.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Neighborhood DECORATING CONTEST

► DECEMBER 14-15, 2020 ◄

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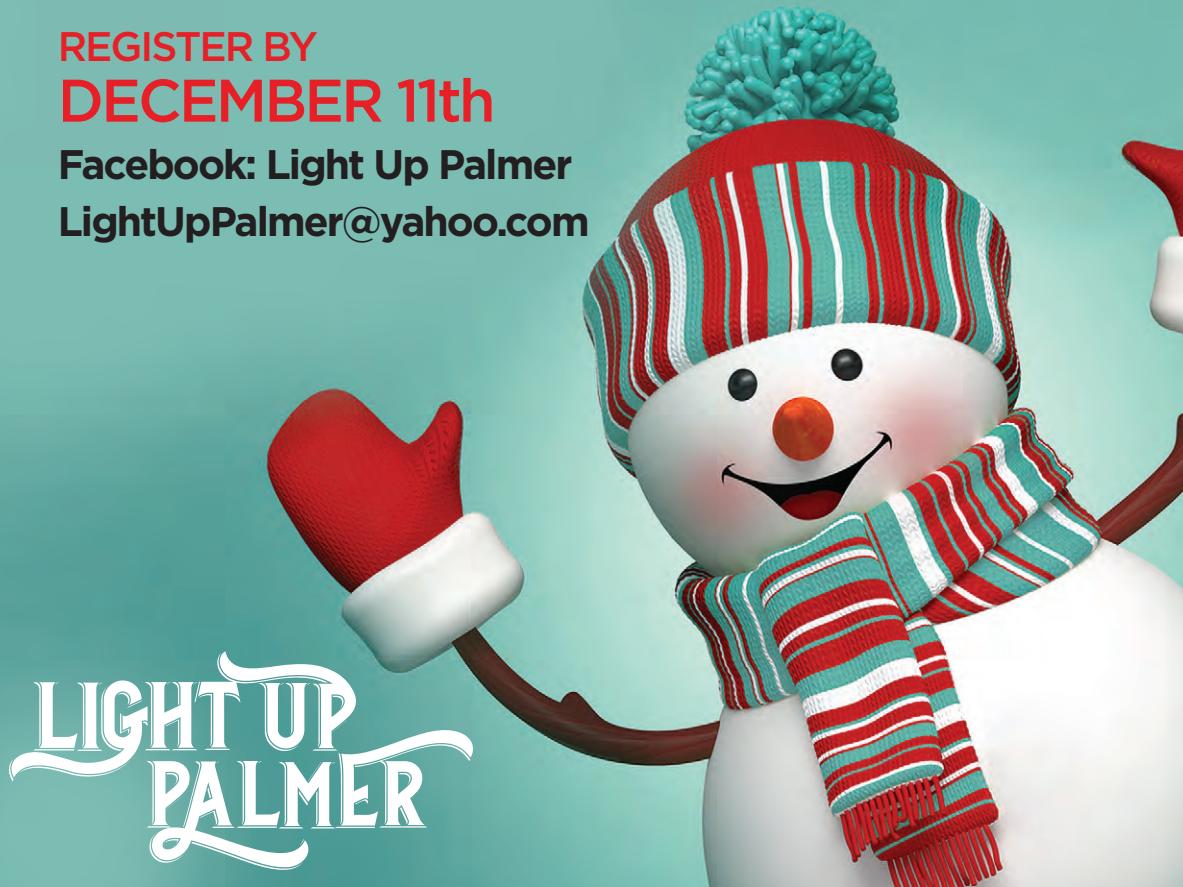
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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Grant deadline extended to Dec. 14

The Monson Cultural Council has extended the deadline to apply for community-oriented projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. Local organizations, schools, and individuals have until Dec. 14 to apply.

These grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and festivals and must take place between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021. Monson priorities can be found online at mass-culture.org/Monson along with the link to the online application. The deadline for applications is Nov. 16.



Courtesy photo
Dené Ackerman and Christine Henry are stacking up enough toys and other gift donations to reach the ceiling.

Santa's helpers get to work

MONSON — What started as interest in the local Neighbors Helping Neighbors Facebook group has grown into a full-blown effort to make sure those who might otherwise be forgotten or have a Christmas devoid of something special will have a day to remember instead. Several residents, including Dené Ackerman, Christine Henry, Kristine Duval, Lori Chiachia, Lorinda Baker, Emily Skoczylas, and Karra "Jace" Cannan, have been collecting toys for kids

and gifts for seniors. The effort initially concentrated on Monson but has expanded to other neighboring towns.

A fundraiser will be held at 4 p.m. Dec. 3 at Main Street Tavern. Gift baskets of gift certificates and goodies from local businesses will be raffled off. All proceeds go to the cause. Want to help Santa's helpers? Email Helpinghands-monson@gmail.com, or visit Monson Neighbors Helping Neighbors for more information.

Travelnitch obtains tax-exempt status

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — Since its creation, in September of 2018, destination-based publication "Travelnitch" has transitioned from a for-profit company to a not-for-profit with the aim of providing the same service.

"Travelnitch," headquartered in Monson, has been granted tax-exempt status. The now not-for-profit corporation's mission is to provide parents and their children an opportunity to learn more about the world they live in, experience diverse cultures and more. With this new tax-exempt status, Amanda L. Renna, founder and CEO of Travelnitch, hopes this will encourage more people to support the company's mission.

Renna said they began the process in July and received their determination letter in the mail on Nov. 2. "It came as a pleasant surprise because the IRS website shows a six-month delay on all pending applications," Renna said.

"We weren't expecting a final decision until the new year."

She also said the application process for becoming a not-for-profit wasn't easy.



"The first is a young travel writer's competition, culminating in the premiere of "Big Writers, Little Ears," a podcast series for kids," said Renna.

"Our travel grants will provide disadvantaged families with a weekend away to spend time exploring together and most exciting, our bookshop on wheels will bright travel literature to kids across the Northeast, through a partnership with public libraries. We will also continue to inspire kids through innovative storytelling, book and product reviews and virtual tours."

When reflecting on what she would specifically tell potential donors, Renna said to imagine a life without travel - not hard to conceive for children in families struggling to get by.

"Together, we can change that," said Renna.

"Your gift to "Travelnitch" will spark a passion for travel through hands-on learning, encourage growth through virtual exploration and bridge the cultural divide through real-world experience," Renna said.

"Help us connect the next generation to a world of travel. Donate today."

To learn more about Travelnitch and donor opportunities, visit travelnitch.pub.



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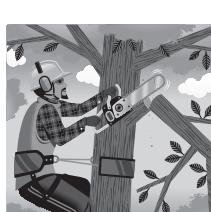
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Grant aimed at preventing overdose deaths

REGION — A rapid response team of addiction specialists and medical professionals will soon be dispatched to any household in Hampden County where an overdose is reported, thanks to a grant secured by the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

The \$900,000 grant is from the U.S. Department of Justice Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP). The money will help fund a Hampden County Addiction Task Force Program Coordinator position and the launch of the Rapid Response and Connection Program. The Hampden County Sheriff's Department was the lead applicant for the grant, obtained on behalf of HCAT, which is comprised of the sheriff's department, the Hampden District Attorney's Office,

critical gap in services at a time when it is needed the most.

"While all the focus has been on the COVID-19 Pandemic, we've seen a dramatic rise in the number of people hitting a dangerous point with their addictions," Sheriff Cocchi said. "The isolation and financial instability has led to a mental health crisis, and an unfortunate part of that is people turning to drugs and alcohol to numb the pain. But it only complicates their personal turmoil after the momentary relief, and many are hitting the wall. This effort will save lives and families by offering support and wrap-around services at a time when it is needed most."

In addition to funding the HCAT coordinator position and enabling the Rapid Response Team, the grant will help roll out a county-wide database system to document overdose incidents, high-risk individuals, and subsequent follow-up actions all in real time.

"Aligning and mobilizing resources county-wide to combat substance use and addiction disorders saves lives," said District Attorney Anthony Gulluni. "As the leading law enforcement organizations in Hampden County, we continue to strengthen our community based partnerships in our efforts to prevent opioid related deaths, reduce harm, and prevent needless loss for families."

Overall, the new HCAT initiative will provide a data-driven, integrated response to the residents who are the most vulnerable and at-risk for opioid and substance use-related incidents while improving community safety and overall well-being. This comes at a time when in the last three years, there has been a 112% increase in opioid-related deaths in Hampden County alone.

Monson Savings Bank encourages voting for their favorite charities

MONSON — Monson Savings Bank is holding its annual Community Giving Initiative returns once again this November, giving the public the chance to choose who will receive contributions in early 2021.

Monson — The season of giving is just around the corner, so it seems fitting that Monson Savings Bank is once again reaching out to the public, requesting they submit their votes for the 2021 Community Giving Initiative.

For 11 years, Monson Savings Bank has been asking the community to help plan the bank's community giving activities by inviting people to vote for the organizations they would like the bank to support during the upcoming year. All are welcome to participate and can cast their vote online at the Monson Savings Bank website.

Votes may be cast at: <https://www.monsonsavings.bank/connect/community-giving.html>.

Voters may provide up to three names of organizations they would like the bank to donate to in 2021. The only requirement is that the organizations be

designated a nonprofit and they are providing services in Hampden, Monson, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow or Ware.

The voting ends on Dec. 31, at 3 p.m., and to be fair, the bank is requesting each person to only vote one time for their three organizations. The bank pledges to support the top 10 vote getters and will announce who they are by the middle of January.

Visitors to the voting page can also view a compiled list of organizations that the bank has already supported in previous years and previously nominated organizations.

"We get such positive reactions each year about the Community Giving Initiative when we reach out to the public asking them for their valuable input," said Steve Lowell, CEO of Monson Savings.

"Monson Savings Bank donates over \$150,000 to support our communities and their members. By partnering with the community members themselves and gathering their input, we are able to ensure the organizations they most admire will be supported. It is a wonderful tradition that we are happy to continue."

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Viewpoints

Wishing all a safe, happy Thanksgiving

I'm not sure how many of us expected last March that we'd be here, a week from Thanksgiving, still grappling with COVID-19 across the country. But, here we are. For a holiday centered around family gatherings, it's as important as ever to exercise safe decision making and caution when making this year's turkey day decisions.

There are several creative ways to have virtual gatherings with family members this year, to avoid driving to other states or getting on a plane and dealing with the risks and quarantine procedures traveling comes with today. Starting with the traditional Thanksgiving meal, families and friends can Zoom or use another video conferencing platform of their choice to see each other while they eat. Separate, but together. It's not traditional, but it is a safe way to bring everyone together from around the country without traveling risks.

The fun doesn't have to stop there. Virtual get-togethers can start, or continue, after dinner. Chat with a glass of wine or sparkling cider while relaxing in the living room or watch the Thanksgiving Day football games or favorite holiday movies with a group.

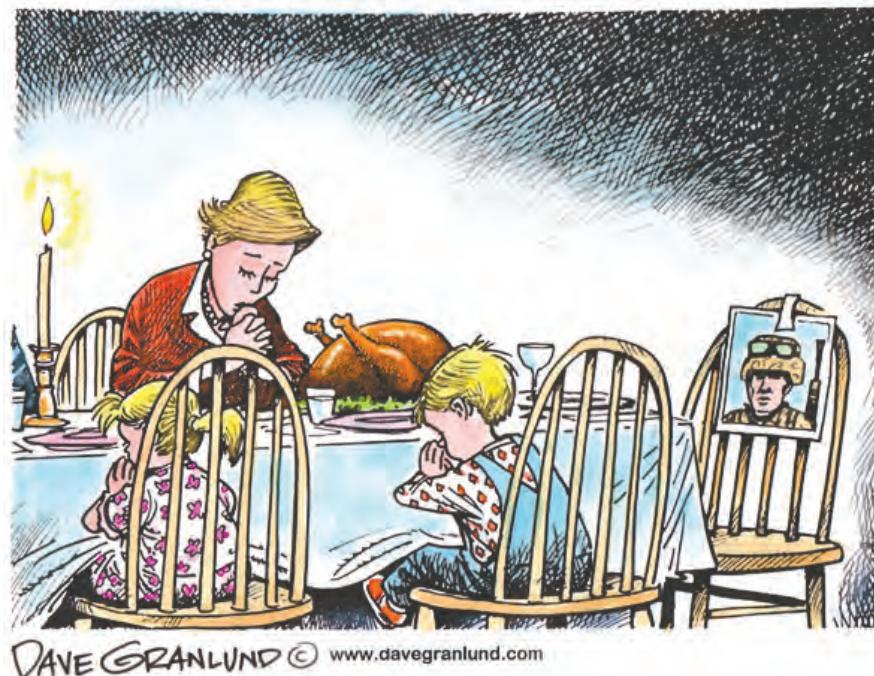
There are plenty of games that can be played virtually as well. There's dozens of trivia apps from QuizUp to Psych! Outwit your friends. It's easy to get into a game and match wits with the whole family. If more into board games than trivia, Monopoly, Scrabble and many classic favorites have digital variants as well. Or, go old school, set up a board game on the table and roll the dice and move the pieces for your virtual family members. No cheating!

If travel plans can't be avoided, make sure to follow safety guidelines set by your state, where you're going, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Check COVID infection rates in areas where attendees are coming from on state, local, territorial, or tribal health websites. Limit the number of attendees from different households and maintain six feet of social distance where possible. Avoiding direct contact, including handshakes and hugs with others from different households, is strongly recommended.

Everyone should be wearing a mask when gathering with those from different households, except when eating and drinking. Wash hands frequently, and encourage others to do the same, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and carry hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and shared items between use when feasible, and limit contact for those areas.

If preparing food, wear a mask and make sure hands are washed thoroughly before and after preparing food. Wear a mask when serving to limit the number of people handling the serving utensils. Limit crowding in areas where food is served by having one person dispense food individually to plates. Avoid crowded buffet and drink stations. Change and launder linens following the event.

The Journal Register hopes everyone has a safe Happy Thanksgiving.



Wishing for winter squash

You should never take anything for granted, especially when it comes to the garden's bounty. While it doesn't seem possible to have 50 winter squash one year and none just a couple years later, that is the predicament I found myself in this fall. I thought I did everything right! I planted the seeds a day or two shy of Memorial Day in a sunny spot that had been fertilized and composted. The seedlings came up strong. I left a floating row cover over them until they were ready to bust through, preventing cucumber beetles from nibbling when they were most vulnerable. But alas, the drought came and with it a dry well. The plants became stressed. Some developed vine borer and/or powdery mildew. While it looked as if I would still get a harvest, this was just wishful thinking. Not long after setting the few fruits I had on the stone wall to cure, most began to rot. Once I realized that this is the way it was heading I gave the rest to the chickens; at least they got to enjoy them.

Gratefully my mom will provide the coveted butternut squash for Thanksgiving dinner. There is an easy way to prepare it without peeling and chopping! Simply wash the squash and cut it in half length-wise. Then, scoop out the seeds and bake cut-side down on a greased cookie sheet or in a casserole dish. At 375 degrees, a butternut can take anywhere from 40 minutes to one hour to cook. Test by inserting a fork into the thickest part of flesh; if it goes in easily, it's done! Scoop out all of the flesh, even the caramelized parts, and mash with a fork or an immersion blender depending on how chunky (or not!) you like it. Season it to taste with cinnamon or better yet, pumpkin pie spice. And if you have a sweet tooth, try adding maple syrup or brown sugar; or even a bit of molasses. A little butter helps too!



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

Did you know that you can substitute home grown cooked winter squash for any recipe that calls for canned pumpkin, even pumpkin pie? Most folks know that it is squash inside the can anyhow...sweeter and less stringy than their pumpkin cousins. While butternuts are my favorite to grow, I do also like the 'Delicata' and 'Sweet Dumplings' for taste. They are rich with a depth of flavor. I just wish they were more productive. One plant produces three fruits at the most.

I think I am going to give squash growing a break for a year. Maybe the borers will go away and I'll be blessed with a good harvest sometime in the future. It would be really sad to think my squash growing days are over. That makes me think about what I should be grateful for this year, garden-wise. Kale, spinach and the cut flowers come to mind...ah, the flowers. I am especially excited about my growing dahlia collection. It would be fun to trade tubers and share the wealth!

But alas, I digress...Let's get back on topic. Don't feel the need to gobble up your butternut squash bounty in a hurry; this type of squash has been known to keep through spring and beyond if stored in a dry, 55-degree location. For me, the mudroom has always worked out well to store my winter squash. My mom, on the other hand, has good luck placing hers in trays off the floor in her basement. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

GUEST OPINION

Hold lawmakers accountable on illegal immigration

Massachusetts state legislators could pass two bills rewarding and encouraging illegal immigration during the post-election "lame duck" session.

One bill (H.3012/S.2641) would allow illegal immigrants to obtain drivers' licenses. The other (H.3573/S.1401) would restrict cooperation between state and local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in finding and removing criminal illegal aliens; it is called the "safe communities bill" by its backers but is more accurately described as the "sanctuary state bill."

Governor Baker opposes both bills.

Legislators introduced earlier versions of these bills periodically over the past decade, but until the present session, none were ever reported favorably out of committees. Even though Democrats outnumber Republicans by wide margins in both chambers, most Democratic legislators realized these bills have little grassroots support – which is why House leadership historically would not allow these bills to come to the floor for a vote.

Unfortunately, legislative accountability is minimal in Massachusetts. Most legislators do not face contested elections. The sanctuary bill has 21 sponsors in the 40-member Senate, 19 of whom ran unopposed in the 2020 election. The driver's licenses bill has 17 sponsors, 15 of whom were unopposed.

In the recent election, only eight senators of 40 faced any opponent. Without the temperance that comes with competition, there is a risk that these legislators could side with special interests and simply disregard the will of large numbers of voters.

In the House (160 members), the situation is similar. The sanctuary bill has only 26 co-sponsors, 21 of whom ran unopposed. Of the driver's licenses bill's 66 sponsors, 56 were unopposed. And in total, 108 of the 160 members of the House ran unopposed in the general election. A list of sponsors of these bills is available on the website of my organization, the Massachusetts Coalition for Immigration Reform and on our Facebook page.

Typically, legislators conclude business by July. However, due to COVID, the session has been extended indefinitely and will almost certainly continue until a new legislature is seated in January 2021.

In this chaotic environment, proponents of these pro-illegal immigration bills may seize the opportunity to push wavering colleagues into voting for measures that would not receive serious consideration in normal times.

Fortunately, it's not too late for voters who oppose these bills to make their voices heard. Massachusetts citizens can email or call the bills' sponsors and politely note their disagreement. Similarly, they can contact legislators who are undecided and encourage them to fight hard against those measures in the lame duck session.

Democracy only truly works when legislators listen to their constituents – so it's up to Massachusetts citizens to remind legislators whose interests they are pledged to serve.

John Thompson is co-chair of the Massachusetts Coalition for Immigration Reform (MCIR).

GUEST COLUMNIST



JOHN THOMPSON

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number.

We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Questions about registering for Social Security

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I have a big 65th birthday coming up mid-March and would like your advice on registering for Social Security and Medicare. I am now unemployed, but I am seeking another gig to get me to age 67 before taking Social Security. Signed: Wondering Senior

Dear Wondering: You do not need to "register" with Social Security in advance. You don't need to do anything with Social Security until you are ready to claim your benefits. Since you were born in 1956, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 plus 4 months, and that is when you will be entitled to 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

But you can, if you wish, also wait beyond your FRA to get an even bigger benefit. For each month you delay after your FRA you'll earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667%, which is 8% additional benefit for each year you wait. That can continue up to age 70 when your maximum benefit will be reached. In your case that would mean an age 70 benefit 29% more than your FRA benefit amount. But whenever you're ready, you can apply for Social Security online at www.ssa.gov/retire (you must first create your "My Social Se-

curity" account to apply online).

Medicare is an entirely separate program and, unless you have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage from a new job, you should enroll in Medicare a bit prior to your 65th birthday ("creditable" coverage is a group plan with at least 20 participants). This would be during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), which is a 7-month window starting three months before the month you turn 65 and ending 3 months after the month you turn 65. If you don't enroll in Medicare during your IEP and enroll later, and if you didn't have creditable employer healthcare coverage after age 65, you will be subject to a late enrollment penalty, which will permanently increase your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premiums.

Medicare Part B is coverage for doctors and outpatient services, and Part D is prescription drug coverage, both of which require a premium; Medicare Part A is hospitalization coverage which is free if you're eligible for Social Security. If you have "creditable" employer coverage when you turn 65, you can simply delay enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer coverage is about to end, or until after it ends during an eight-month Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare Part B without pen-

alty. But for Part D prescription drug coverage, you must enroll in a private plan within 63 days of your 65th birthday, or the end of your employer drug coverage, or you will incur a Part D late enrollment penalty for enrolling later. And remember that Medicare late enrollment penalties never go away – they are recurring for the rest of your life.

The bottom line is this: you don't need to pre-register for either Social Security or Medicare. You can simply enroll when you are ready for benefits to start (keeping in mind that for Medicare, you must have "creditable" alternative coverage after age 65 to avoid late enrollment penalties).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit the AMAC website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email AMAC at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Police/Fire

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 11 calls from Nov. 11 to Nov. 16.

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 12:10 a.m., the department responded to a sprinkler activation on South Main Street. The department returned to service at 1:32 a.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 1:04 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Pine Street. The department returned to service at 1:52 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, at 9:33 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Beacon Street. The department returned to service at 10:01 a.m.

On Friday, Nov. 13, at 10:18 a.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Park Street. The department returned to service at 10:30 a.m.

On Friday, Nov. 13, at 6:15 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Knox Street. The department returned to service at 6:45 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, at 7:16 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Beacon Street. The department returned to service at 7:51 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, at 9:31 p.m., the department responded to a tree on a powerline on Central Street. The department returned to service at 10:54 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, at 10:05 p.m.,

the department responded to an alarm activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:42 p.m.

On Monday, Nov. 16, at 12:41 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Shearer Street. The department returned to service at 12:58 a.m.

On Monday, Nov. 16, at 9:56 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 10:16 a.m.

On Monday, Nov. 16, at 6:54 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Depot Street. The department returned to service at 7:11 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to a total of nine calls from Nov. 10 to Nov. 15.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 2:23 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Belchertown Road. The department returned to service at 2:40 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 11:36 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Skyline Terrace. The department returned to service at 11:55 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, at 11:32 a.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Springfield Street. The department returned to service at

11:40 a.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, at 8:09 p.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Baptist Hill Road. The department returned to service at 8:52 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, at 9:43 p.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Skyline Terrace. The department returned to service at 10:06 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10:06 p.m., the department responded to a call, to assist Palmer Ambulance Service Inc. The department returned to service at 10:17 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, at 8:29 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Maple Terrace. The department returned to service at 8:53 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, at 11:00 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Pine View. The department returned to service at 11:16 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, at 11:19 p.m., the department responded to a residential lockout on Kelly Street. The department returned to service at 11:30 p.m.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsbridge Fire Department responded to one call from Nov. 10 to Nov. 16.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 4:22 a.m., the department provided mutual aid to

Park Street in Palmer, for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 5:16 a.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to a total of six Fire Calls and 17 EMS calls.

On Monday, Nov. 9, at 6:46 a.m., the department responded to a call, smoke in the valley on Margaret Street. The department returned to service at 7:39 a.m.

On Monday, Nov. 9, at 9:36 a.m., the department provided public assistance on Robbins Road. The department returned to service at 9:50 a.m.

On Monday, Nov. 9, at 2:31 p.m., the department responded to a call of flames showing with black smoke in the parking lot, on Main Street. The department returned to service at 2:36 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 12:50 p.m., the department provided public assistance on Washington Street. The department returned to service at 1:08 p.m.

On Friday, Nov. 13, at 6:36 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle crash on Wilbraham Road. The department returned to service at 7:33 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, at 8:54 p.m., the department responded to a call for branches on a wire, on Munn Road. The department returned to service at 9:23 p.m.



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Early Deadlines

FOR ALL PUBLIC NOTICES
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- **Wednesday, November 18 at NOON** for The Register, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Agawam Advertiser News and Sentinel
- **Thursday, November 19 at NOON** for Barre Gazette, Quaboag Current, Country Journal, The Journal Register and Ware River News
- **Friday, November 20 at NOON** for Town Reminder, The Holyoke Sun and Chicopee Register

School Committee debates COVID metrics

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — The Monson School Committee met virtually Nov. 12 and voted 4-1 for the modification of metrics of their COVID-19 Public Health Report.

This item was put on the meeting agenda as a response to the Baker-Polito administration's Nov. 6 announcement that state metrics would be adjusted for reporting of cases of the virus by a municipality's population size. These metrics will incorporate cases per 100,000 residents and the test positivity rate when determining a color designation for a municipality. For example, a population of 10,000 would be labeled grey if there were less than or equal to 10 total cases and green if there were less than or equal to 15 to-

tal cases.

If a location was to turn red, there would have to be more than 25 cases in a population under 10,000, which is the category in which the Town of Monson fits.

When discussing these new metrics, MPS Superintendent Cheryl A. Clarke informed the committee that, as of Nov. 12, they have nine COVID cases in the last 14 days, with the average daily incidence rate at seven per 100,000 in the last 14 days. She also said with these numbers, the town would be labeled gray, which is the lowest risk.

After Clarke spoke, Jeffery Lord, chairman of the committee, addressed the group and asked for the opinions of whether or not to use the Governor's classification, or its own.

Committee member Emily Graves-Harrison was the first to

speak and said, "the new metrics are pretty disturbing" and that she would rather stick with the district's own classification of what a high number is.

"I think the metrics is a big push for schools to be more open," said Graves-Harrison.

"Twenty-five is a really high number, especially in our small town."

A meeting participant commented that the administration is "going to move the goalposts to whatever they want it to be."

After its discussion, the committee originally decided that a case count over 14 days must be 15 or less with a positivity rate of 2.5% or lower. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote after the committee amended its metrics to incorporate a daily incidence rate per 100,000.

Graves-Harrison argued they should be working with

"whole numbers," believing the 7.7% incidence rate should be 8%.

After the meeting, committee member Colleen Flynn later clarified the misunderstanding of the discussion on the second vote and said there was a huge difference between 7.7% and 8% and that Graves-Harrison was thinking of eight exact cases, instead of the exact number of cases, per hundred thousand.

The whole point of that discussion was to be consistent with the last eight weeks of data," said Flynn.

"The whole purpose of my amendment was clarifying that we had the right information in that motion, because there was an error of what column they looked at and to make sure that we weren't shooting ourselves in the foot by rounding numbers that should not be rounded up."

TRACK I from page 1

but we'd like them to look again at the noise levels at the track."

Beckley said he's been in contact with Palmer officials about a joint approach.

"Palmer has done a lot of work through their planning department and legal team and they have done most of the work," he said.

"We appreciate that. If they need assistance, the Ware Select Board indicated they would be happy to provide [additional] legal assistance."

Kathleen Fournier, a spokesperson with MassDEP's Western Regional Office Service Center, said the agency is open to talking with local officials about possible remedies.

"MassDEP is certainly willing to meet with the town and provide technical assistance on the noise issue," she said in an email. "The town issued a special permit for the racetrack which has provisions regarding noise nuisances. MassDEP believes the town has the authority to address the noise issue as they hold the permit, but again, we are willing to discuss the issue with them and provide technical assistance."

tance."

The town she refers to is Palmer, which issued the special permit prior to the racetrack's opening.

A rough start

Palmer Town Planner Linda Leduc, who called PMP "a real nuisance to Ware, Warren, and Palmer," said there were problems from the start. She cited "condition No. 10" stipulated in the permit that calls for sound monitoring and any needed mitigation within 90 days of the track's opening. A study was completed within a year, she said.

"They failed," Leduc said.

Things boiled over since then.

"We were trying to work with the owner for years to try to get him to comply with the terms of the agreement to get the sound under control. Because the lines of communication failed, we ended up going in front of a judge," Leduc said.

Litigation spilled over into 2020.

"We were working with our lawyer all summer," Leduc said.

Legal remedies, typically a slow option under the best of circumstances, have been even slower because COVID-19 caused court

functions to grind to a halt this year. The town previously filed a legal action against PMP alleging that it's not in compliance with the special permit the racetrack received from the town allowing it to operate. Specifically, Leduc cited noise mitigation, including sound studies and measures to contain more noise to the racetrack property, as reasons the town believes PMP is not in compliance.

There have been previous studies, but Leduc contends that negotiations with PMP on the latest one failed to yield an agreement on the test's parameters. The town, Leduc said, isn't sure if it can rely on the test results it received in September.

"There was no back and forth on it," Leduc said. "I'm not saying they did anything improper, but we didn't even know they were doing the study until they did submit it and our town engineer reviewed it."

Another point of view

Racetrack owner Fred Ferguson has been fielding complaints since high-performance cars started roaring around the tree-lined course.

"We've been trying to address

it the best we can," Ferguson said.

"We installed 1,800 to 2,000 feet of acoustic fabric that drapes over the fence and in other sections that don't have fencing we installed eight-foot high acoustic panels designed to mitigate noise that, when attached to the barriers, are about 12 feet high and so we have 1,000 to 1,200 feet of that. We feel that's given us the best benefit as far as mitigation," he said.

But that's not all.

"We have baffle inserts we put into cars we deem are excessively loud and those will help reduce noise. We're doing all we can to encourage electric cars – battery or solar powered," Ferguson said. He quickly clarified that "we're not expecting that to replace regular automobile race cars anytime soon."

He also said he's delayed events and otherwise tinkered with the race schedule out of consideration for nearby church services and other sensitive events.

Ferguson said although he feels as if he's doing all he can to win over critics, he's also pragmatic.

"I'm not going to minimize the complaints from people, but there's a handful of people extremely motivated to be the squeaky wheel," he

said.

"I'm not disparaging their complaints, but if there were thousands of people upset, each town would see a mob at their board of selectmen meetings. But I get it. People expect a certain amount of responsiveness from their elected officials. But we're a neighbor as well and we do our damndest to demonstrate our willingness to try to make the track more acceptable."

Business v. COVID

Despite the complaints and legal wrangling, Ferguson said he feels fortunate to have launched a business that didn't have to shut down because of the pandemic. Unlike restaurants, theaters, and shops were patrons can't avoid close contact, a racetrack is a place where it's easier to observe social distancing.

"I'm grateful the track is not one of those businesses that's enclosed," he said. Still, Ferguson added, "it's been difficult."

Employing about half a dozen year-around employees and approximately 40 overall during the season, Ferguson said PMP should be seen as a benefit to the community and the local economy, including

Our hive is sick by Mary Ting virtual display

puppets. T

his three-decade overview posits commentary on environmental issues and the connections to histories and humanity including such themes as deforestation, bee colony disorder, consumer products, wildlife trade and the pandemic.

Ting is a Chinese American artist, cultural thinker, educator and writer. She uses drawing, sculpture, installation, community projects, research and lectures as a means to reflect and comment on cultural history, personal stories, trauma, grief and loss in the time of the anthropocene. Solo exhibitions include Lambert Foundation, Dean Project, metaphor contemporary art, and Kentler Drawing Space.

This exhibit is free and open to the general public.

For more information: 413-545-5177 or visit August Savage Gallery.

the roughly \$40,000-\$45,000 in property taxes he contributes to the town's coffers.

"We want to be considered something positive in town," he said.

Study at a glance

The latest sound study received by the town contains pages of data and some anecdotal conclusions. The study noted in several places that equipment failures prevented exact data from being included in parts of the report. Here are two excerpts from the most recent sound study:

St. Mary's Cemetery: "Track noise was barely noticeable unless the site was downwind from the track.. the subjective observation was that it was very difficult to hear noise from racing activities. Under these conditions the track noise was audible but rarely dominant."

Liberty Baptist Church: "Track noise was noticeable at this site, although it rarely dominated the soundscape."



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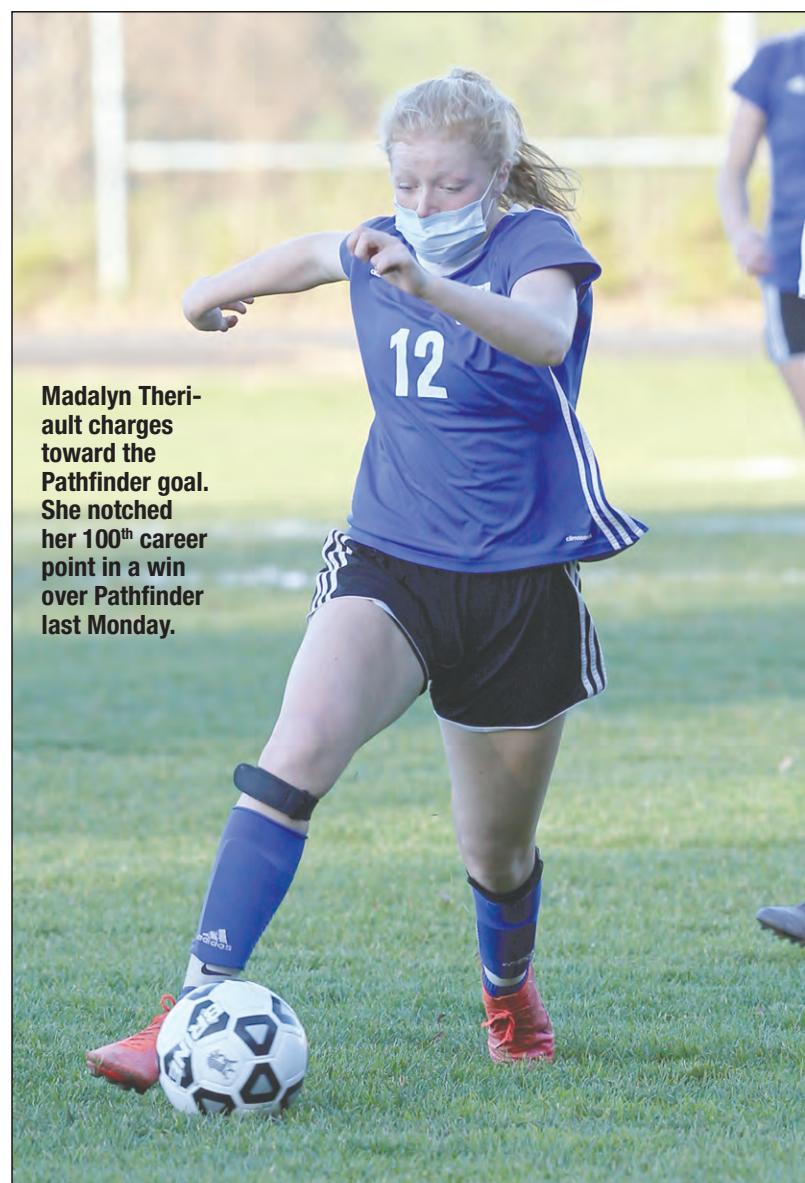
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SOCCER



Madalyn Theriault charges toward the Pathfinder goal. She notched her 100th career point in a win over Pathfinder last Monday.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Palmer's Abby Rathbone takes a shot on goal.

Theriault hits elusive 100th point in Palmer win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER — Prior to this season, no member of the Palmer girls' varsity soccer team had ever recorded 100 career points.

Junior forward Madalyn Theriault put her name into the history books by reaching the elite milestone during the Lady Panthers' 7-2 victory over the Pathfinder Lady Pioneers at Duke Field on Nov. 9.

"Reaching 100 career points has always been one of my goals and I'm thankful to have achieved this milestone," said Theriault, who became a member of the girls' varsity soccer team as an eighth grader. "It was definitely the hardest point to get during my entire high school

career. I couldn't have done it with the help of my teammates."

Theriault also thanked Nick Marciano, who's the Lady Panthers girls' varsity soccer coach, along with Celso Sandavol, and Dave Denault, who were her premier soccer coaches. Sandavol is also the Palmer girls' junior varsity soccer coach.

"All of my soccer coaches have really helped me a lot," she said. "I probably wouldn't be the soccer player that I am today without them."

Marciano has enjoyed having Theriault play for his soccer team during the past four years.

"Maddy is an outstanding soccer player and I think she'll go far in this sport," Marciano said. "She plays soccer all year long, which



Ava Theoclis angles toward the sideline.



Cordelia Hageman plays a ball off her shin.

has helped her a lot."

Theriault entered the home match against Pathfinder, which was played on a beautiful fall afternoon, one point away from reaching the milestone.

The magic moment took place five minutes into the opening quarter. After receiving a pass from ju-

nior midfielder Ava Denault along the right sideline, Theriault fired a low breakaway shot into the back of the net past Pathfinder senior goalkeeper Jylian Augar.

"I was anxious before the game and all of the weight was lifted off my shoulders after I scored my first

SOCER | page 8

SOCCER

Fall season concludes for high school teams

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — As the Massachusetts High School fall season wraps up at the end of the week, it could be largely seen as a massive success as many teams were able to play in athletic contests for the first time in more than six months.

High school athletics were forced to shut down indefinitely following the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. For Massachusetts, it occurred during the semifinals of the state basketball tournament and all state semifinal winners were considered co-champions and the state championship games were not played.

Following that, spring sports were delayed a few times, before sports and school overall, were called off for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, leaving spring athletes graduating with no final season.

With the pandemic still ongoing, but numbers of positive tests dropping to nearly 0.8 percent, high school sports were allowed to resume with modified rules, few fans, and a limited schedule that introduced the concept of bubble play, something that could be considered tough for Western Massachusetts teams, which are used to leagues that are put together based on level of competitiveness in order to main-

tain balance in most sports.

Most soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball teams that participated had 10-12 contests scheduled, and for the most part, those contests were played.

Many schools developed a schedule that went from Oct. 1 to about Nov. 6. The final two weeks of the season were reserved for makeup games if schools had to shut down operations or for any other postponements.

While there has been a major spike of cases and several communities went "into the red" under the state metrics measuring coronavirus transmission risks, most schools were able to get most of, if not, their entire seasons played.

There were just a few schools with some remaining games this week, including Pathfinder, Ware, and Palmer. Quabbin, Quaboag, North Brookfield, and Tantasqua also had a few remaining contests to play this week after some Central Mass. teams had to shut down their play.

Athletes persevered through the modification of play. More than anything, they had to get used to ramping up to heavy running while wearing masks, a rule that had to be enforced strictly due to the insistence of local health directors in order to control communities from

FALL | page 8

SOCCER

Sport-specific guidelines still to come for winter sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — The full Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs updated guidelines were released by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association were released late last week.

The MIAA and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been working with the EEA to obtain guidance and follow protocols in order to get student-athletes back on the field.

In August, the EEA deemed basketball, football, soccer, wrestling, lacrosse, cheerleading, and ice hockey as high-risk sports.

As a result of that designation, contests in those sports were not allowed, and summer basketball and soccer leagues were completely shut down.

Soccer was able to return during fall sports with major modifications to play, especially a low-level of contact and mask-wearing by all participants.

But it is still unknown exactly what guidelines will be made in order to make basketball and ice hockey playable. As of now, the EEA is allowing Level 3 play, which permits contests between schools, but does not allow for tournaments. The MIAA officially cancelled the winter tournaments recently and the season is supposed to end on Feb. 21, 2020.

Basketball and hockey both involve sustained high contact. In the case of basketball, there is also a lot of sweating that spreads between players through close contact and the basketball itself. During the fall season, girls volleyball, the only indoor sport played during the season, rotated a new volleyball before each play. That may not be feasible in the faster moving game of basketball.

Wrestling will not be allowed to compete in school-to-school competition but will be allowed to practice. There can be some intrasquad contests among individual teams, but no other competitions will be allowed at this time.

It is unknown if wrestling could take place in the bubble season, as football will be the prevalent sport during that season and many wrestlers also play football.

Football is still scheduled to take place in late February through mid-April in what is being called "Fall 2" or a bubble season. Football and cheerleading are both supposed to take place in that season.

With talks of a vaccine now emerging during the past week, it is very possible that there could be modifications to each sports as the vaccine becomes more widely available and individuals are vaccinated for COVID-19.

The EEA is mandating face

WINTER | page 8

SOCCER

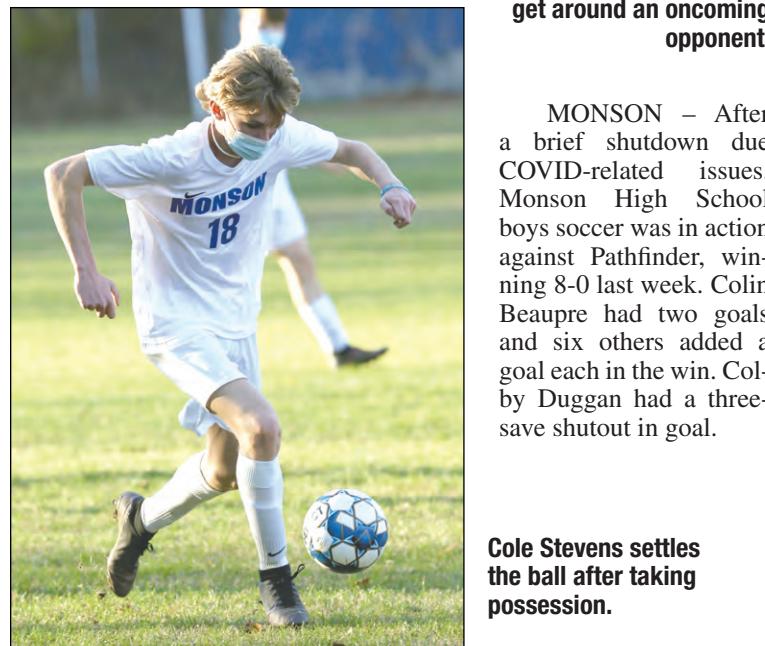
Mustangs soccer season resumes



Jake Beaupre starts a dribble up the sideline.



Noah Martinson chases after a loose ball.



Cole Stevens settles the ball after taking possession.



Luke Hedspeth makes a pass to his left.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

MASCAC cancels winter sports season

WESTFIELD – The NCAA has released winter sport guidelines and the state of Massachusetts recently updated their winter sport policies. After an in-depth review of the information from the state and NCAA, consultation among the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents, athletic directors, and athletic trainers and after exhausting all possibilities, including a review of the risks involved, the eight MASCAC Presidents have made the difficult decision to cancel all winter sports competition. This includes the sports of men's and women's basketball, men's ice hockey and men's and

women's indoor track and field.

Similar to the fall sports, the state universities are planning to provide winter sport student-athletes with on-campus, in-person practices, conditioning and training opportunities throughout their traditional season to support their physical and mental well-being. These practice and training opportunities will not use a year of NCAA Eligibility and will be done in compliance with the campus, state, federal and NCAA COVID guidance and protocols.

"The MASCAC Presidents have been continuously observing the pandemic and guidelines from local, state, federal and

NCAA officials which has led us to the decision to cancel winter sports competition during the spring semester," said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents.

Affiliates will be able to schedule nonconference contests at their discretion.

"We explored countless scenarios to find a safe path forward with the evolving recommendations and policies from the NCAA and the state for our winter sport student-athletes," said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "After consultation with our medical staff and

athletic directors, the MASCAC Presidents came to the conclusion there is not a way to ensure the safety of our student-athletes and staff with off campus winter competition, the risks are far too great."

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

Sophia Dobek takes a long kick.



Savannah Ranzie gets ready to cross the ball.

proud of her," Denault said. "She's one of my best friends and it has been awesome being teammates with her on the soccer team the past four years."

Denault and Theriault hooked up again about three minutes later.

The home team was given an indirect kick inside the box following a head ball, which aren't allowed this year because of COVID. Denault tapped the ball over to Theriault, who blasted a shot into the back of the net.

"Ava has assisted on most of the goals during my high school career," Theriault said. "We practice a lot together and we're like a dynamic duo."

Denault's final assist of the game came on a goal by Mega, who's one of the senior captains, which increased the Lady Panthers lead to 3-0 with eight minutes remaining in the opening quarter.

Theriault was credited with the assist on the only goal by either team during the second quarter, which was scored by sophomore Gwen Dugan.

According to Marciano, Amy Dugan, who is Gwen's aunt, finished her high school soccer career with 84 points, which had been the highest point total in the program's histo-

ry. Dugan is currently living in California and played soccer at Dartmouth College.

With the Lady Panthers holding a comfortable 4-0 advantage, Marciano moved Theriault back to defense late in the first half.

The only position that Theriault hasn't played during her outstanding varsity soccer career is goalkeeper. She doesn't plan on making saves in the future.

"I never want to be a goalie because I don't think I would be very good at that position," she said. "I'll play any other position on the field to help my team."

The three Lady Panthers second half goals were scored by freshman Payton Baer, junior Caitlin Lebel, and Theriault.

The two Lady Pioneers goals after halftime were scored on chip shots by sophomore Ava Theoclis, who played for Palmer a year ago. Her first goal was assisted by freshman Victoria Stephens. Freshman Sasha Williams was given the assist on Pathfinder's second goal.

The other three Pathfinder players, who also played soccer at Palmer High School, are freshman Sophia Dobek, sophomore Stephanie Kozlick, and junior Cordelia Hageman.

Alannah Wood sprints up the field with the ball.



Miyah Mega looks to make a cross.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your

friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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TurleySports

Athlete of the Week



Madalyn Theriault
Palmer High School

Congratulations to Theriault as she notched her 100th point in Palmer's win over Pathfinder last Monday.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Tryouts wrapping up for Pioneers

LUDLOW – WUP FC is excited to hold winter tryouts for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups (2012 - 2002 birth years). An open house for younger ages can be scheduled upon request.

Developmental Academy: players born in 2013-2015

First Kick: players born in 2016

Tryouts remaining will be held Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 at Lusitano and Ana Dias Middle fields. There are various tryout times for age groups

and more information can be found at www.westernunitedpioneers.com. This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately.

We want to create the safest environment for your player due to COVID-19. Each player should bring water, a ball, shin guards, and wear a mask.

Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely

want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

Additionally, with the various senior games that have been held already or are still waiting to be held, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

FALL | from page 7

any major spreads.

While there have been major outbreaks the state government has attributed house parties, there were not any known cases of major outbreaks among high school sports teams. There were some isolated cases and games postponed due to contact tracing leading to some quarantining, but no major sickness among the teams.

The season was also made very successful by a coordinated effort among athletic directors to have proper protocols in place and staff to help

enforce mask-wearing and social distancing. Soccer and girls volleyball had extra staff used to clean and sanitize game balls. Girls volleyball cycled in new balls on every play.

The season unfortunately concluded without any tournaments for the first time in years. This would have been the final year for state-sanctioned sectional tournaments. The state is still scheduled to go to a statewide tournament format next fall, when hopefully a full, normal season will be played.

WINTER | from page 7

coverings for all sports with the exception of swimming. Swimming is also supposed to be able to take place, but with modifications made to limit the number of participants in a pool area.

The PVIA only allowed home fans at outdoor contests during the fall with some schools allowing no fans at

all for various reasons, including the ability to control attendance. A few schools allowed one guest per home athlete in volleyball, while most did not allow any fans. It is unknown whether any fans will be permitted at basketball and hockey contests.

DEATH NOTICES

Diane Jean Casavant, 69

Died: Nov. 5, 2020
Services are Private

Crystal L. Easterly (Smith), 41

Died: Nov. 11, 2020
Visitation: 10 a.m.-noon
Nov. 20 at Beers & Story in Palmer

Donald F. Reim, 90

Died: Nov. 11, 2020
Graveside service

Catherine L. Welsh (Hogan), 79

Died: Nov. 8, 2020
was held Nov. 14
St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Ware

Mary Lou Woolley, 72

Died: Nov. 8, 2020
Services are Private

O B I T U A R I E S

Catherine L. Welsh, 79

PALMER — Catherine L. (Hogan) Welsh, 79, of Palmer, died at home surrounded by her loving family on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020.

She leaves her three children; Tammy Valdez of Three Rivers, Deborah Britten and her husband Brian of Chicopee and Chris Welsh and his wife Christine of Palmer; her sister Delores Shea of Ware; her six grandchildren, Taryn, Ryan, Caitlin, Michael, Karyce and Caleena; her four great-grandchildren, Talia, Tyler, Arianna and Tianna; as well as her nieces, Sharon Lagrant and Kathleen Soltys. She is predeceased by her grandson, Tommy, her five brothers, Michael, Howard, Frannie, Eddie and Dickie; and her long-time companion Eddie Przybyla. She was born in Springfield, Vermont, the daughter of the late Howard and Agnes (Jacque) Hogan.

Catherine worked as a transportation dispatcher at the Monson Developmental Center and was also a hairdresser by trade.

Catherine was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She enjoyed her time visiting Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun, Atlantic City and played bingo every Tuesday and Thursday night with her friends. Catherine had a deep love for her family, she enjoyed watching her grandkids play sports as she was their biggest fan. She also took pride in her green thumb, caring for her houseplants and flowers. She had an adventurous spirit and a love for travel.

A Funeral Mass for Catherine was held Nov. 13 at All Saint's Church in Ware. Burial



will be held Friday, 1:30 p.m. Friday Nov. 20, in New St. William Cemetery in Ware.

In accordance with the current COVID-19 MA guidelines, masks must be worn while at the funeral home, the church and in the cemetery and social distancing guidelines must be followed. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriner's Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA, 01104 or shrinershospitalforchildren.org.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com

Mary Lou Woolley 1948 - 2020

LUDLOW — Mary Lou Woolley, 72, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020 at Baystate Medical Center.

She was a longtime resident of Monson and spent several years in Seminole, Fla., near her sisters. She was born on April 14, 1948, daughter of the late Kenneth and Margaret (Potter) Labarge and was educated locally.

longtime member of First Church of Monson Congregational, the Hearts Willing Club, and numerous button clubs including the National Button Society.

Mary Lou enjoyed reading, watching Hallmark movies and

Dr. Phil. She especially loved spending time with her family and known for her humor. She is survived by her two daughters, Laurie Williams and her husband Ozzie of Springfield; Grace McIntyre and her significant William Davis of Monson; her two sisters, Carol Lemieux of Seminole, Fla., and Rose LeTourneau of Palm Coast, Fla.

She will be dearly missed



by her six grandchildren: Kristy, Kiyanna, Kaylee-Anna, Karena, Shannon and Amanda as well as her adored 10 great grandchildren. She also leaves several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends to remember her spirited ways.

The funeral services will be private and the burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery, Monson. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Mary Lou's name to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104. Please visit lombardfuneral-home.com for more details or to share online condolences and memories.

O B I T U A R I E S

Diane Jean Casavant

CORINTH — Diane Jean Casavant, 69, passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 5, 2020.

She was born Oct. 23, 1951, in Palmer, Massachusetts, the daughter of Paul and Dorothy Raymond.

Her family brought love and joy to her life each and every day. Diane enjoyed spending time at their camp on Boyd Lake and loved fishing with her family.

Diane was known for her beautiful afghans she made lovingly for her family and close friends. She especially loved and cherished her time with her

grandchildren.

Diane is survived by her husband, Julian; her two sons Donnie and his wife Terri Jane, Kevin and his wife Angel; her grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Kayla, Kristian, and Bayley; her mother, Dorothy Raymond; her brothers Ronnie and his wife Mary Jane, Gary and his wife Bonnie, Russell; her sister Cheryl; her brother-in-laws Roger, Rene, Urban, Dennis and his wife Cindy. Paul and his wife Patty, Mike and his wife Lau-

ra; her sister-in-laws Theresa, Flora and her husband Dennis, Mary, Dianne; several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her father Paul Raymond, her brother Allen Raymond, her father-in-law and mother-in-law Lucien and Madeline Casavant.

A private ceremony of remembrance will be held for her immediate family.

Condolences to the family may be expressed at BrookingsSmith.com



Crystal Easterly, 41

PALMER — Crystal L. (Smith) Easterly, 41, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 11, 2020.

She was born in Ware on Dec. 4, 1978, daughter of the late Michael W. Smith and Bonnie (Merritt) Smith.

Crystal's crafty talents could be seen with the beautiful dream catchers she created along with the many other arts and crafts that she designed. She loved muscle cars (like her Dad) and appreciated music immensely but most importantly, Crystal was all about family.

On Nov. 6, 2019, she was

predeceased by her father.

Her love and memory will be cherished by her mother, Bonnie Smith of Wales, her son, Austin Easterly and her girlfriend, Alicia Steeno both of Chicopee. Her sister, Natasha Perry of Greenfield, brother, Kyle Perry of Adams, niece Kacie Mundell, nephew, Caleb Carney, along with Alicia's children, Anthony, Mason and Hailey Steeno, stepfather, Michael Perry of Charlton and many aunts and



uncles will also dearly miss her.

Visitation will be held 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Nov. 20, at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, followed by a time of remembrance.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the family for her son Austin's future. For details, please visit beersandstory.com.

Donald F. Reim, 90

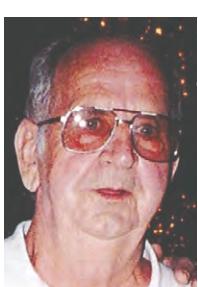
THREE RIVERS — Donald F. Reim, 90, passed away Nov. 11, 2020, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on Jan. 26, 1930, in West Warren to the late Roy and Clara (Vilandi) Reim. Donald proudly and honorably served his country as a medic in U.S. Army until December of 1949. After completing his military service, Donald worked as a truck driver for Monson Developmental Center until retiring.

He loved hunting and taking trips to the casino in his leisure. Most of all, Donald enjoyed spending his time with his

beloved family and grandchildren.

Besides his parents, Donald was predeceased in death by his loving wife, Evelyn (Magiera) Reim in 2019; brothers, Kenneth and Roy Reim; and sisters, Evelyn Cummings and Shirley Giroux. He is survived by his four children, David Reim and wife Cathy; Kevin Reim and wife Linda; Richard Reim; and Sharon Reim. He also leaves his brother Charles (Marjorie) Reim and his sister Phyllis Ad-



ams as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

A graveside service was held Nov. 14 at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Bonds-

ville.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Donald's name may be made to the American Heart Association or Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Please visit beersandstory.com to sign the online guest book.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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I would like to thank the Town of Ware Ambulance Professionals who transported Cathy from home to MLOC.

I would like to give thanks to the Emergency Department Staff at MaryLane Outpatient Center for taking care of Cathy when she was in desperate need of your help the past couple of months.

My Greatest Thanks has to go to Baystate Wing from the E-Dept., to G-Psych, to the floor unit to special care to Dr. Ford for your honesty & truthfulness, to Laurie head nurse thank you for being so giving. All of the staff, I know who you are, I will never forget you. You are all A-plus.

From the family of our beloved Cathy Bartholomew who left us on 11/01/20. You will never be forgotten.

Philip S. Bartholomew

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Senate Ways and Means Releases FY 2021 Budget Recommendations

BOSTON – The Senate Committee on Ways and Means recently announced a \$45.985 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

The Committee's budget is a responsible and balanced plan that ensures fiscal stability and recommends targeted investments to protect access to core essential services, address urgent needs, and support efforts to build an equitable recovery for the Commonwealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As I have often said, Massachusetts is a Commonwealth—which means that we take care of each other—and that's what this budget does," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland).

"I am immensely proud of Chair Rodrigues, his team, Vice Chair Friedman and Assistant Vice Chair Lewis and the entire Senate Committee on Ways and Means for the budget they have released today under very difficult circumstances. This budget utilizes a judicious use of reserves and targeted revenue initiatives while making notable investments in the areas of life most impacted by our current crisis to help us build toward an equitable recovery," Spilka said.

"As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I am pleased with the investments we were able to make in this budget during what is a very difficult year by all accounts," said Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer). "This is a positive step towards improving lives and livelihoods, and gives much needed support to those who have been waiting for funding level allocations to plan for the coming year."

The Committee's budget recommends a total of \$45.985 billion in spending, a 5.5% increase over the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) General Appropriations Act. This spending recommendation is based

on a revised tax revenue estimate of \$27.592 billion, which provides for \$3.558 billion less in available revenue than the original consensus revenue estimate of \$31.151 billion, as originally agreed upon in January. To close this anticipated revenue shortfall, the FY21 budget includes \$1.5 billion from the Stabilization Fund, ensuring a majority of the Stabilization Fund balance remains for future years. \$1.38 billion in available federal supports, and more than \$400 million in new revenue initiatives. It also avoids drastic budget cuts while leaving the Commonwealth in a sound fiscal position moving forward.

The Committee's budget protects Massachusetts students and educational institutions by preserving the Senate's stated priority investments, despite an unprecedented fiscal climate. Continuing the Senate's long-standing support of targeted investments in education, this budget holds harmless Chapter 70 funding in a manner consistent with the agreement reached between the Senate, House and Administration in July by providing \$5.283 billion, an increase of \$107.6 million over FY20.

This additional level of investment will allow all school districts to maintain foundation spending levels while accounting for enrollment and inflation changes. The budget also includes \$345 million for the Special Education (SPED) Circuit Breaker, reimbursing school districts for the cost of educating students

with disabilities at the statutorily required 75% reimbursement rate. In addition to ensuring stability for the state's K-12 population, the Committee's budget takes steps to

invest in childcare providers and higher education institutions—both of which are of critical importance to the state's economy and recovery in midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education investments include:

- \$5.283 billion for Chapter 70 education funding
- \$345 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker
- \$115 million to reimburse public school districts for costs incurred when students leave to attend charter schools
- \$82.2 million to reimburse school districts for regional school transportation costs

• \$560.4 million for the University of Massachusetts, \$308 million for the fifteen community colleges, and \$285.5 million for the nine state universities

• \$40 million for a new reserve to cover parent fees for families receiving subsidized childcare for the remainder of FY 21

• \$25 million for a new Early Education and Care Workforce and COVID-19 Supports Reserve to provide classroom stabilization grants, incentive pay for providers, and support for increased operational costs due to COVID-19

• \$15 million for grants to the Head Start program to maintain access to early education services for low-income families

• \$5 million for the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initia-

tive to expand access to preschool in underserved areas

• \$2 million for grants offered through the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative to support high school students with intellectual disabilities ages 18–22 with access to higher education opportunities

• \$1.5 million for rural school aid assistance

• \$1.5 million for the Civics Education Trust Fund

This proposal solidifies Massachusetts' leadership in affordable health care and preserves access to essential services for our most vulnerable residents. The budget funds MassHealth at a total of \$18.577 billion to maintain critical access to affordable health care coverage for over 1.9 million people, ensuring that comprehensive care for our most vulnerable children, seniors and low-income residents is protected in the middle of a public health crisis. The Committee's budget also includes targeted investments to maintain and expand access to mental health services while highlighting the importance of strengthening public health infrastructure at the local, state and regional level to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health investments include:

- \$500.3 million for Adult Support Services, including assisted outpatient programming and com-

prehensive care coordination among health care providers

• \$163.6 million for a range of substance abuse treatment and intervention services

• \$94.5 million for children's mental health services

• \$45.2 million for domestic violence prevention services

• \$35.4 million for early intervention services, to ensure supports are accessible and available to infants and young toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities

• \$20 million for funding to support expanded access to mental health services, including \$10M for the Behavioral Health, Outreach, Access and Support Trust Fund and \$10M for a new inpatient mental health acute care beds grant program to expand access to critical mental health services

• \$17.5 million for Family Resource Centers to meet increased demand for services

• \$10 million for grants to support local boards of health to combat COVID-19

• \$2.5 million for a new matching funds grant program to assist communities making public health-oriented adjustments to their public safety systems, including targeted reforms such as jail diversion programs, de-escalation training and professionals, and behavioral health staffing and supports

• \$1.7 million for the State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) program to support a more

effective local and regional public health delivery system

• \$1 million for a COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan program, focused on equitable vaccine distribution

In addition to these health care investments, the Committee's budget takes meaningful steps to expand access to care by including provisions concerning same day billing that prohibit insurers from denying coverage for mental health services and primary care services solely because they were delivered on the same day in the same facility. This important measure will remove a significant financial barrier to the integration of primary care and mental health.

The Senate is committed to building an equitable recovery from the unprecedented COVID-19 public health crisis and its economic fallout. To that end, the Committee's budget invests in programs to educate, train, and prepare Massachusetts workers while addressing further economic impacts of the pandemic.

Opportunity investments include:

- \$46.4 million for a new Economic Planning and Response Program, including grants and loans to small businesses, small business technical assistance and capital improvement supports

BUDGET | page 2

Public Notices

Community Outreach Meeting

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for December 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Town of Brimfield Town Hall Building located at 21 Main Street, Brimfield, Massachusetts 01010. The Community Outreach Meeting will be held in accordance with Social Distancing Guidelines. The proposed Marijuana Establishment will be an Adult-Use Marijuana Manufacturer and Adult-Use Marijuana Cultivator to be located at 142 Holland Road, Brimfield, Massachusetts 01010. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

11/19/2020

or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before December 14, 2020 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on October 30, 2020.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
18792

11/19/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF MONSON

Vertex Tower Assets, LLC (the "Applicant") has applied for a Special Permit from the Town of Monson Planning Board to construct a Wireless Communications Facility including a 100' tall monopole style tower at Lakeside Drive, Tax Assessors Parcel 52-24, on land owned by Peter D. Martins and Lori S. Martins. The Applicant will conduct a Visual Demonstration to illustrate the location and height of the proposed Facility by raising a balloon at and to the height of the proposed Facility. Said Visual Demonstration will be held SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2020 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm, weather and wind conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on December 5, 2020, the Visual Demonstration will be rescheduled until Sunday December 6, 2020, wind and weather conditions permitting. Said Visual Demonstration will be held SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 2020 or Sunday December 13, 2020, wind and weather conditions permitting. If you have any questions concerning said Visual Demonstration, please contact the Town of Monson Planning Board, kbaker@monson-ma.gov OR Francis D. Parisi, Esq., Parisi Law Associates, P.C. PHONE: (401) 447-8500, EMAIL: fparisi@plapc.com. Please check the Parisi Law Associates, P.C. website www.plapc.com after noon on the day before the scheduled date(s) to determine if the balloon will be up the following day.

Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Holland, numbered 61 East Brimfield Road, given by Gloria T. Kay to GSF Mortgage Corporation, dated July 6, 2006, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16041, Page 1 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq.)

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Better Business Bureau to award scholarships to veterans attending area colleges

WORCESTER — The Better Business Bureau of Central New England Consumer Education Foundation will award up to eight \$500 textbook scholarships to veterans and military service members attending area colleges. Last year's scholarships were awarded to students attending Becker College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Springfield College, Quinsigamond Community College and Westfield State University.

To be eligible to enter for a \$500 textbook scholarship, students are asked to test their financial literacy with a savvy consumer quiz and subscribe to BBB of Central New England's consumer newsletter. They must also be currently attending a college or university located in the BBB of Central New England service area of Central and Western Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut.

"These scholarships help veteran and military service members with an immediate need, covering a portion of their college costs," said Nancy B. Cahalen, president and CEO of BBB of Central New England. "But more importantly, the application process encourages all applicants to develop the lifelong skills of financial litera-

cy and scam prevention. We want to do our part to prevent veterans, service members, and their families from being targets for fraud."

Funded in part by BBB Accredited Business dues and in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense Financial Readiness Campaign, the BBB's Military Line program works to increase the level of financial literacy within military communities and reduce the number of military personnel who fall victim to predatory practices such as high interest auto loans, expensive insurance sales, risky real estate deals and work-from-home scams. Specific programs include financial readiness training, fraud and scam alerts, company and charity reviews, and dispute resolution services.

Deadline for submission is Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. Email textbooks@cne.bbb.org for the scholarship entry form and savvy consumer quiz.

About BBB

For more than 100 years, the Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2019, people turned to BBB more than 183 million times for BBB Business Profiles on nearly 5.8 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at bbb.org. BBB of Central New England was founded in 1940 and serves 225 communities in Worcester, Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Berkshire counties, as well as parts of Middlesex County and seven towns in Northeastern Connecticut.

BUDGET | from page 11

- \$40.6 million for adult basic education services to improve access to skills necessary to join the workforce

- \$20 million for summer jobs and work-readiness training for at-risk youth

- \$15 million for a Community Empowerment and Reinvestment grant program to provide economic supports to communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system

- \$10 million for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund to connect unemployed and under-employed workers with higher paying jobs

- \$6 million for Regional Economic Development Organizations to support economic growth in all regions of the state

- \$5 million for Community Foundations to provide emergency economic relief to historically underserved populations across the Commonwealth

- \$3 million for the Secure Jobs Connect program, providing job placement resources and assistance for homeless individuals

- \$2 million for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership

and invests over \$540 million in housing stability programs to support many families, tenants and property owners in this time of crisis.

Housing investments include:

- \$179.9 million for Emergency Assistance Family Shelters

- \$135 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)

- \$50 million for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), as well as emergency changes to the RAFT program to increase the maximum amount of rental assistance that a household can receive from \$4,000 to \$10,000 and allow eligible households facing a housing crisis to access both RAFT and HomeBASE.

- \$53.4 million for assistance for

- \$27.2 million for the HomeBASE diversion and rapid re-housing programs

- \$12.5 million for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP), which provides rental assistance to people with disabilities, and \$2.5 million for grants to improve or create accessible affordable housing units

- \$10.5 million for housing vouchers for Department of Mental Health (DMH) clients to transition into housing and community-based services

- \$4.75 million for the Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs)

- \$3.9 million for the Home and Healthy for Good re-housing and supportive services program, including \$250,000 for homeless LGBTQ+ youth

- \$2.5 million for the Office of Public Collaboration to support housing dispute mediation efforts across the Commonwealth

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